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General and complete disarmament

Disarmament and non-proliferation education

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum*

Implementation of the recommendations by Member States

Replies received from Member States

Japan

[Original: English]

[25 October 2004]

Japan's efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation education

1. Japan has chosen to establish its position in the international community as a nation dedicated to peace, aiming towards a safe world free from nuclear weapons. As the only country to have experienced devastation from nuclear bombing, Japan is committed to ensuring that the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are never forgotten. With this aim, Japan places the utmost importance on disarmament and non-proliferation education, especially for the younger generation.

2. The following illustrate Japan's efforts in this field.

United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme

3. Pursuant to a decision taken at the General Assembly at its first special session devoted to disarmament in 1978, the United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme was implemented for the first time in 1979 to train experts, mainly from developing countries, on disarmament issues. Various government officials participate in the programme for about three months, whereby they receive training at United Nations Headquarters and Geneva with the Conference on Disarmament

* This information was received after the submission of the main report.

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and deepen their knowledge in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation by visiting international organizations, research institutions and relevant countries.

4. Japan has been inviting about 25 people to visit Japan each year since 1983, amounting to a total of about 500 participants by 2004. Participants receive briefings on the disarmament and non-proliferation policies of Japan. The programme includes a visit to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to learn about Japan as the only country to have suffered from the devastation of the atomic bomb and to gain an insight into the reality of atomic bombing. A large number of diplomats who have participated in the Fellowship Programme are now actively working in the front lines of global disarmament diplomacy. Japan will continue to contribute actively to this programme.

United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues

5. Regional disarmament conferences are an effective means to enhance awareness of the importance of disarmament at the regional level. Japan has sponsored a United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues in a different local city each year since 1989, providing a valuable opportunity for distinguished disarmament experts from around the world to engage in useful discussions. The Conference was held in Sapporo, Japan, in July 2004.

Participation in the Group of Governmental Experts on disarmament and non-proliferation education

6. Japan participated in the Group of Governmental Experts on disarmament and non-proliferation education, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/33 E of 20 November 2000, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of governmental experts, to prepare a study on disarmament and non-proliferation. The Group submitted a report to the General Assembly two years later (A/57/224), containing a series of recommendations for immediate and long-term implementation, which formed the basis for a resolution adopted at the General Assembly in 2002 (resolution 57/60).

Inviting disarmament experts and Hibakusha

7. Based on the recommendations from the study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, Japan invited American nuclear disarmament education expert and representative of Educators for Social Responsibility, Kathleen Sullivan, to conduct a nuclear disarmament education tour of Japan in November 2002, working with high-school students, civic leaders, and Hibakusha (atomic bomb victims) in Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Tokyo. Furthermore, on 19 January 2004, disarmament and non-proliferation expert, Natalie Goldring, from the Program on Global Security and Disarmament at the University of Maryland, United States of America, was invited to Japan to give a lecture on disarmament and non-proliferation, in particular concerning nuclear weapons and terrorism.

8. Hibakusha share their experiences first-hand through visits to schools and by providing guided visits to monuments and atomic-bombed landmarks. Speaking from personal experience, survivors educate students and the public in a culture of peace by creating an awareness of the devastation caused by nuclear weapons.

Citizen's forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education

9. In August 2003, during the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues held at Osaka, a citizen's forum on disarmament and non-proliferation education was held with participation by 50 teachers from primary, junior high-schools and high-schools in Osaka, international organizations, as well as various experts on disarmament and non-proliferation. Following the conference, an organizer made the proposal that "advocate" cities for United Nations-initiated education on disarmament and non-proliferation be created, acting as facilitators or coordinators in the access to and gathering and sharing of disarmament and non-proliferation education. The citizen's forum was also held during the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues held at Sapporo in July 2004.

Disarmament and non-proliferation seminar

10. The Centre for the Promotion of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Japan held a disarmament and non-proliferation seminar in March 2004, for two and a half days, with the aim of deepening understanding on the recent disarmament of weapons of mass destruction and non-proliferation trends for those wishing to make an active contribution in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation. A series of lectures was given on various topics in the field, followed by active discussions among participants.

11. It is essential to train experts through, and disseminate basic knowledge of, disarmament and non-proliferation education, as Japan continues to regard the promotion of disarmament and non-proliferation as an important pillar of its diplomatic policy.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs materials

12. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan has made various efforts to disseminate materials on various efforts it has been making in the areas of disarmament and non-proliferation. *Japan's Disarmament Policy* was published in 2002 in Japanese, followed by an English version in 2003. In 2004, *Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy* was published in both Japanese and English. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also established, and regularly updates, a comprehensive home page with readily available information on Japan's activities in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Submission of working papers on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

13. Japan submitted working papers on disarmament and non-proliferation education to the second and third sessions of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/WP.15 and NPT/CONF.2005/PC.III/WP.18), underlining the importance of education as a tool for strengthening disarmament and non-proliferation for future generations. At the second session,

Japan introduced a working paper on behalf of coordinating countries (NPT/CONF.2005/PC.II/WP.18).

Peace efforts/peace education

14. Among the United Nations recommendations, the creation of peace cities through the establishment of, for example, peace parks, peace museums and web sites is encouraged. The Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the only cities to have suffered from the devastation of atomic bombs, are dedicated to peace as they seek to convey their experience to the world in order to prevent the recurrence of such a tragedy. Both cities hold a yearly peace ceremony, which gathers people from Japan and all over the world. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively deliver a peace declaration each year at the ceremony, expressing the hope that nuclear weapons will never be used again and appealing for peace.

15. The mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki began the World Conference of Mayors for Peace, now known as Mayors for Peace, in 1982, to encourage cities to work together towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons. It convenes every four years in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with an ever increasing number of member cities, currently standing at 579 cities in 108 countries and regions, including major cities in the nuclear-weapon States.

16. Peace museums play an important role in disarmament education, the most famous being the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum. The International Network of Peace Museums, enabling the worldwide exchange of information, exhibits and ideas among peace museums, was created in 1992. The Japanese Network of Museums for Peace was established in Japan in 1994. Peace museums aid in disseminating information on disarmament through exhibitions and other activities in schools as well as in the wider community, and can play a pivotal role in disarmament education.

17. The cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki along with the International Peace Research Association have agreed, with the support of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to cooperate actively to establish Hiroshima-Nagasaki peace study courses in universities around the world by sending peace education materials and lecturers, establishing university-level peace education models and exchanging opinions and methodology.

18. Japan believes that the international community should be well informed of the destructive effects of nuclear weapons. In accordance with the wish of the people of Japan that such weapons never be used again, the Government of Japan has supported on a number of occasions the efforts of local governments and non-governmental organizations to organize exhibitions relating to atomic bombs in foreign countries, including the Hiroshima-Nagasaki atomic bomb exhibitions in Atlanta, Georgia, United States, in September 2003, and in Coventry, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in October 2003.